Senior Constable Ahane

Prince Laronne

Valet Rouvieu

"MAFUYU NO SECRET"
[Midwinter Secret]

A oneshot from *Akatsuki ni Naku Kaze ni Naku Choral* by
NASU Yukie

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那州雪絵
Yukie NASU

暁に哭く、風に鳴くコラール
アカツキニナク カゼニナクコラール

ディアプラス コミックス

暁に哭く、風に鳴くコラール 那州雪絵

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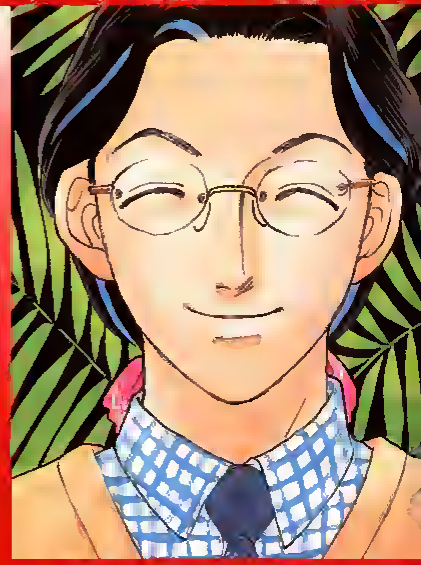


SHINS HOKAN

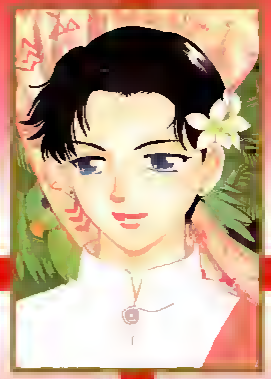
ジムは風に耳をすまし、幼馴染みのデニスの声を探していた。自分を呼ぶ、どこか甘い彼の声を。暴行を受けたはずの彼は、男たちの死体を残し、姿を消した。あてのないまま西へ向かうジムの前に、見知らぬ男スミスが現れ、こう告げる――おまえのデを連れ

DEAR+COMICS

［東京怪談ｎｅｗ］023

［暁に哭く、風に鳴くコラール］036

九州雪絵のCOMICS



PROFILE

DOB 4th January, Star sign Capricorn. Blood type A.

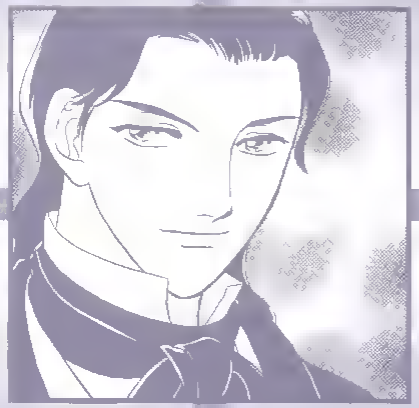
Likes: Travel and going for walks

Favorite dish: Yakisoba noodles.

Favorite color: Red and Orange.

What you love most right now: My dog.

YUKIE たナ・ゆきえ NASU



暁に哭く、風に鳴くコラール

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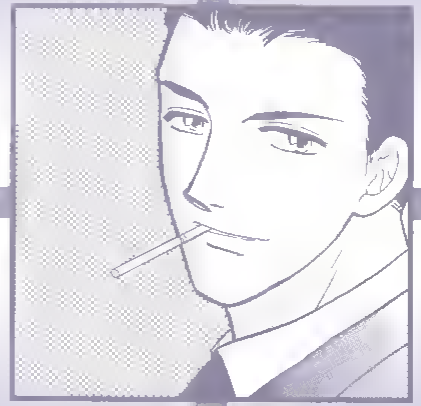
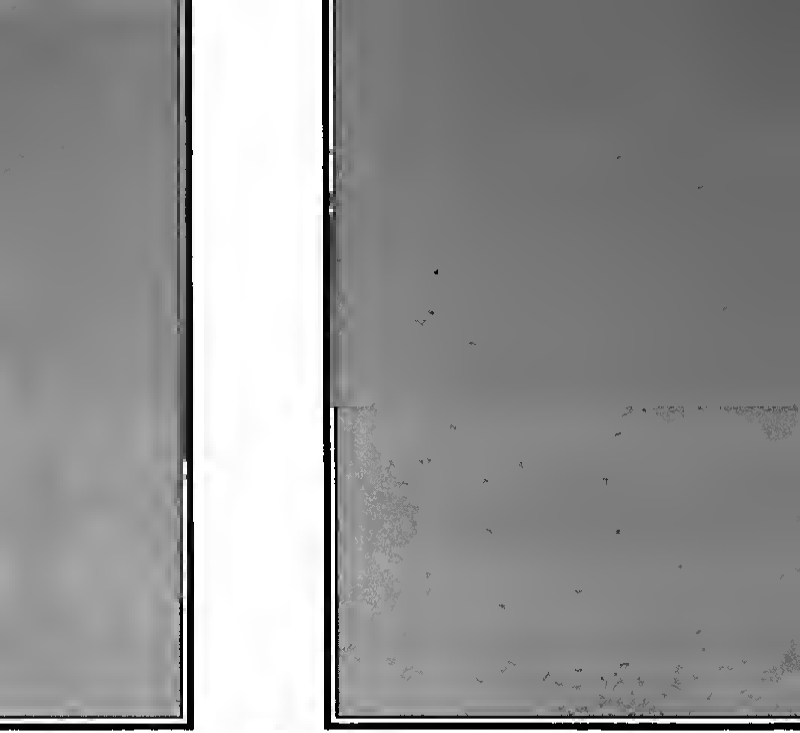
新書

AKATSUKINIKU KAZENINAKU CHORAL



AKATSUKINIKU KAZENINAKU CHORAL

UKIE NASU
なす・ゆきえ



Dear+COMICS D36/SHINSHOKAN

暁に哭く、風に鳴くコラール

【アカツキニナク、カゼニナクコラール】

／那弥雪絵

YUKIE NASU PRESENTS

Dear+COMICS036

暁に哭く、風に鳴くコラール

YUKIE NASU PRESENTS

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Midwinter Secret
真冬のシークレット
Mafuyu no Secret

COMMANDER!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!
WHY AM I THE ONLY POLICE OFFICER ASSIGNED TO GUARD PRINCE LARONNE?!
I HAD NO SAY IN THIS
IT WAS AT THE PRINCE'S REQUEST.
LISTEN TO ME, AHANE.
ME GUARD A FOREIGN PRINCE?!
THIS WHOLE ASSIGNMENT IS ABSURD!
YOU'LL BE EXPECTED TO GUARD THE PRINCE'S RESIDENCE AND THE SURROUNDING GROUNDS

THE AIM OF THE UPCOMING ELECTION IS TO OVERTHROW THE CURRENT DESPOTIC REGIME. THE PRINCE HAS BEEN ASKED BY DEMOCRACY ACTIVISTS TO RETURN FROM EXILE SHORTLY TO ENDORSE THEIR CAMPAIGN
TEN YEARS AGO, THE KING OF LAPUTA, PRINCE LARONNE'S FATHER, WAS ASSASSINATED SHORTLY AFTER. THE PRINCE FLED LAPUTA FOR JAPAN, WHERE HE HAS LIVED EVER SINCE. HIS MATERNAL GRANDMOTHER IS JAPANESE, SO HE DOES HAVE FAMILY HERE
YOU'RE PROBABLY AWARE THAT THE PRINCE'S HOMELAND, LAPUTA, BECAME A REPUBLIC LAST YEAR. THE EXISTING MILITARY REGIME CAVED IN TO EXTERNAL PRESSURE AND WILL SOON HOLD GENERAL ELECTIONS.
SO IT'S HIGHLY LIKELY THE PRESENT REGIME WILL TRY TO OBSTRUCT THE PRINCE'S RETURN USING ANY MEANS AT THEIR DISPOSAL.
THE MEMBERS OF LAPUTA'S FORMER ROYAL FAMILY ARE STILL HELD IN HIGH REGARD BY ITS CITIZENS. IF THE PRINCE RETURNS HOME, HE IS EXPECTED TO PICK UP WIDESPREAD SUPPORT
...BEFORE THE PRINCE EVEN REACHES HOME SOIL
THEY ARE FAR MORE LIKELY TO ORCHESTRATE AN ATTACK RIGHT HERE IN JAPAN.
IN REALITY, THEY WOULDN'T DARE MAKE A MOVE ON SUCH A RESPECTED AND POPULAR FIGURE ONCE HE IS BACK IN LAPUTA
APPARENTLY THE PRINCE HAS TAKEN A LIKING TO YOU
HE'S WHAT?!
BUT STILL...
...WHY ME?
HOWEVER, HE REFUSES TO HAVE A FULL SECURITY DETAIL.
THE PRINCE DOESN'T BELIEVE HE REQUIRES A BODYGUARD WHILE IN JAPAN. BUT HE HAS RELUCTANTLY GIVEN IN TO THE DEMANDS OF OUR FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTRY

ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE SENIOR CONSTABLE AHANE SHINGO OF THE JAPAN POLICE FORCE. HE WILL SERVE AS PERSONAL BODYGUARD TO HIS HIGHNESS PRINCE LARONNE
THIS MUST BE SOME KIND OF JOKE!
HE MAY BE YOUNG AND SOMEWHAT INEXPERIENCED FOR THE POST, BUT HE'S STILL AN EXCELLENT OFFICER
I'M SURE YOU CAN DEPEND ON HIM
MY NAME IS AHANE
I WILL PERFORM MY DUTIES WITH THE UTMOST DEDICATION.
IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU,
AHANE-SAN
WHY ON EARTH DID HE SELECT ME OUT OF ALL THE OFFICERS TO BE HIS PERSONAL BODYGUARD?! HE ACTS AS IF HE HAS NO IDEA WHO I AM!

I SURE AS HELL HAVEN'T TAKEN A LIKING TO HIM!
...HE'S BEEN LIVING IN THE LAP OF LUXURY RIGHT HERE IN THE SAFETY OF JAPAN!
WHILE HIS PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SUFFERING UNDER ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AND THE TYRANNY OF A BRUTAL REGIME...
WE'LL TAKE OUR LEAVE NOW...
ALLOW ME TO SHOW YOU AROUND THE PRINCE'S RESIDENCE
WORK HARD!
wink
HERE IS THE PRINCE'S BEDROOM
YOUR ROOM IS JUST NEXT DOOR, AHANE-SAN
...AND THE BATH-ROOM.
HERE'S THE DINING ROOM...
THE KITCHEN AND PANTRY...
HIS HIGHNESS AND I ARE THE ONLY TWO PEOPLE WHO LIVE ON THE PREMISES
I'VE CHECKED THE BACKGROUND OF THE DOMESTIC STAFF WHO ARE ALL JAPANESE CITIZENS
I DON'T NEED SUCH SPACIOUS LIVING QUARTERS
PLEASE FEEL FREE TO MAKE USE OF THE ADJOINING SITTING ROOM AS WELL...
They live in a totally different world
STILL...

OH, HOW REMISS OF ME NOT TO INTRODUCE MYSELF I'M A VALET TO HIS HIGHNESS MY FAMILY HAS SERVED THE ROYAL FAMILY FOR GENERATIONS
PLEASE CALL ME ROUVIEU
HIS HIGHNESS WOULD LIKE YOU TO JOIN US FOR DINNER, SO PLEASE MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME IN THE MEANTIME.
WHAT'S GOING ON?! NO ONE SEEMS THE LEAST BIT CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR SECURITY!
WE'RE HAVING TRADITIONAL LAPUTAN DISHES FOR DINNER I DO HOPE THEY'RE TO YOUR TASTE.
I RARELY EVER HAVE REASON TO WORRY ABOUT ANY PERSONAL DANGER...
...SO YOU CAN RELAX AND UNWIND TOO, AHANE
OH, DO YOU MIND IF I CALL YOU AHANE?
YOUR HIGH-NESS
CALL ME LARONNE

DON'T WORRY! I'M NOT IN ANY DANGER!
IF THERE'S THE SLIGHTEST CHANCE YOU MIGHT ONE DAY BECOME KING OF YOUR COUNTRY...
...BUT DON'T YOU THINK IT MAY BE A BAD IDEA TO BE SO COMPLACENT ABOUT YOUR SECURITY?
THIS IS JUST MY PERSONAL OPINION...
I'LL BE A FIGURE-HEAD, THAT'S ALL
AS FOR THOSE PEOPLE ALIGNED WITH THE MILITARY REGIME, I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY'D TRAVEL ALL THE WAY TO JAPAN JUST TO ASSASSINATE ME!
I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO RULE AS KING ANYWAY! DON'T YOU THINK A RULING MONARCHY IS SO ANTIQUATED IN MODERN TIMES?
ROUVIEU, DID YOU TELL AHANE HE COULD HAVE HIS OWN ROOM HERE?
AFTER ALL, NOTHING BEATS SPENDING LOTS OF TIME IN THE COMPANY OF A CUTE HUNK, RIGHT?
HOW TRUE SIR!
HUH?
BUT YOUR HIGH...
...BUT UNFORTUNATELY I'VE GOT NO OTHER CHOICE, BECAUSE THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS I NEED TO DO BEFORE I LEAVE JAPAN
IT SEEMED LIKE OVERKILL TO HAVE A BEEFY BODYGUARD CONSTANTLY FOLLOWING ME AROUND...

crash
カﾗﾝ
YOU CAN RELAX!
I WON'T REQUEST ANYTHING ESPECIALLY IMPROPER OF YOU!
I DON'T SEXUALLY HARASS OTHERS EITHER!
SO WE CHECKED WITH OUR SOURCES TO FIND YOUR NAME
HIS HIGHNESS HAS BEEN BESOTTED BY YOU EVER SINCE HE CAUGHT SIGHT OF YOU AT LAST YEAR'S GARDEN TEA PARTY
.....
↑Processing this information

OH, OF COURSE I KNOW AHANE IS ALSO A TRAINED POLICE OFFICER!
THAT'S WHY I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF ME!
HANG ON A SEC!
IS THE PRINCE SAYING HE'S GAY?
LOOK, I'M NO DIFFERENT TO THOSE OLDER MEN WHO ENJOY SITTING NEXT TO YOUNG GIRLS SIMPLY FOR THE PLEASURE OF THEIR COMPANY! THERE'S NO SINISTER MOTIVE BEHIND IT!

Oops!
P-PLEASE EXCUSE MY RUDE CONDUCT
NO
NOT AT ALL! THAT'S PERFECTLY ALL RIGHT!
NO NEED TO STAND ON CEREMONY!
scrape
かた
HOW CAN YOU EXPECT TO BE KING IF YOU SPEAK TO ME LIKE THIS?!
YOU'VE GONE FAR ENOUGH!
Yes I've heard you many times sir!
But I often talk like this don't I?

I'M ONLY HERE AS HIS BODYGUARD, DAMMIT!
IF YOU'RE ANXIOUS, JUST LOCK YOUR DOOR SO YOU CAN HAVE AN UNINTERRUPTED NIGHT'S SLEEP.
GOOD NIGHT!
JUST WEAR YOUR NORMAL CLOTHES, AHANE! NO UNIFORM REQUIRED!
WAIT A MINUTE!
WHAT KIND OF ASSIGNMENT IS THIS?!
SO YOU'RE COMING WITH ME TOMORROW MORNING WHEN I GO TO SCHOOL, RIGHT?
CLACK
MAYBE I'M THE ONE WHO'S IN DANGER HERE!
STUPID PRINCE! HE'S CRAZY AND HE'S GAY!
SAVE ME, COMMANDER!
PLEASE GET ME OUT OF HERE!
I'm scared of being on my own!
chirp chirp chirp

TODAY'S MY FINAL DAY
HOW LONG WILL YOU BE ATTENDING SCHOOL?
THUD
I'M GOING TO COLLECT MY GRADUATION CERTIFICATE
GOOD MORNING, AHANE!
DID YOU SLEEP WELL?
Didn't sleep a wink.
YEAH...
.....
YOUR HIGHNESS YOU'RE SEVENTEEN, RIGHT?
UH HUH.
IT'S A SHAME, THOUGH. I ENJOYED IT A LOT.
THAT MEANS YOU MUST'VE SKIPPED A WHOLE YEAR OF SCHOOL
HIS HIGHNESS EARNED THE CREDITS HE NEEDED TO FINISH SENIOR HIGH IN JUST TWO YEARS
vroom

THANK YOU SO MUCH HEADMASTER.
.....
CONGRATULATIONS ON GRADUATING FROM SENIOR HIGH, YOUR HIGHNESS.
IT'S AN HONOR TO PRESENT YOU WITH YOUR CERTIFICATE
YOUR HIGH-NESS!
IF I MAY SPEAK OPENLY, I'D LIKE TO EXPRESS MY PROFOUND SORROW AT YOUR DEPARTURE!
YOU HAVE BEEN AN INCREDIBLY GIFTED STUDENT!
ALTHOUGH I'M AFRAID YOU'LL FACE MANY TRIALS IN FUTURE, I DO HOPE YOU'LL HAVE THE SELF-BELIEF AND COURAGE TO SUCCEED!
YET... YET... I'M SURE YOUR INTELLIGENCE WILL BE THE SOURCE OF YOUR NATION'S MIGHT IN YEARS TO COME!
Rush
がばっ
I'LL DO MY BEST!
HEADMASTER, I HOPE YOU AND THE OTHER TEACHERS STAY SAFE AND WELL!
ON BEHALF OF EVERYONE HERE, I'D LIKE TO WISH YOUR HIGHNESS THE BEST OF LUCK!
HE REGARDS THE PRINCE AS A GRANDSON BECAUSE HE WAS GOOD FRIENDS WITH THE PRINCE'S GRANDMOTHER AND HER FAMILY
BUT HE'S A NICE MAN TOO.

BUT IT'S SUCH A PITY FOR YOU AS WELL, YOUR HIGHNESS
I'VE HEARD THAT UNIVERSITY CAN BE A LOT OF FUN
WELL.
THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT
YOU HAD TO FLEE YOUR OWN COUNTRY BECAUSE OF THE CIVIL WAR, RIGHT? NOW THAT IT'S OVER, YOU'RE OBLIGED TO RETURN AS THEIR PRINCE...
Aachoo!
NOTE According to Japanese superstition people sneeze when others talk behind their back.
IT'S COLD TODAY, HUH?
I HATE THE COLD
WELL WE MAY AS WELL GO BACK NOW
Flap
NOT YET
NEXT WE'RE OFF TO THE PRINCE'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
WHAT ON EARTH FOR?!
Oh yes, my old school
I'M INDEBTED TO MANY PEOPLE IN JAPAN. I WAS WORRIED I WOULDN'T HAVE THE TIME TO FAREWELL THEM ALL BEFORE I FLY BACK HOME

NEXT STOP IS MY OLD JUNIOR HIGH
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU CAME ESPECIALLY TO SEE US!
KYAA! KYAA!
KYAA! KYAA!
WOW!
Move out of the way!
Shove Shove
Wow
But he's a real prince!
HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!
YOY!
PRINCE-SAMA! I WANT TO TAKE A PHOTO WITH YOU!
ME TOO!
HE GAVE ME HIS BUSINESS CARD!
YOUR PIANO TEACHER?
YOUR GRANDMA'S FAMILY?
YOUR RIDING CLUB?!
YOUR JAPANESE TUTOR?
HOW MANY MORE PLACES ARE THERE?!
NEXT UP IS THE...

WHAT THE—
LET'S GO SHOPPING TODAY!
WINTER FASHION SALE
YOU MUST BE INSANE! LOOK AT THE CROWDS!
SO WHAT?
I WON'T BE ABLE TO GO SHOPPING FOR A WHILE ONCE I RETURN HOME
I'LL TAKE THIS AND THAT AND THIS.
IS THERE ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE ME TO BUY YOU, AHANE? ANYTHING AT ALL?
NO!
RIGHT! NOW LET'S FIND A PLACE FOR DINNER!
HUH?!

IN OVERSEAS NEWS...
TODAY U N OBSERVERS ARE HEADING TO THE REPUBLIC OF LAPUTA TO OVERSEE THE COUNTRY'S FIRST GENERAL ELECTION...
I'M WORN OUT...
slump
IT'S AS IF WE CAME HERE ESPECIALLY FOR A ROMANTIC DINNER!
INDEED, SIR! THE TOKYO SKYLINE IS BEAUTIFUL BY NIGHT!
Is this a date?
grin
grin
DON'T WORRY! THERE'S ZERO CHANCE OF ANYTHING BAD HAPPENING!
THEY REALLY HAVE NO IDEA OF THE DANGER AT ALL!
WHERE ARE WE GOING TODAY?
A PARK.
WHICH PARK?

I LIVED NEARBY WHEN I FIRST ARRIVED IN JAPAN.
I'D OFTEN COME OUT HERE FOR A STROLL WITH HOUYIEU.
DOES THIS PARK HOLD FOND MEMORIES FOR HIM?
AT FIRST I FOUND IT SO STRANGE
BECAUSE IT WAS NOTHING LIKE THE SCENERY OF LAPUTA
BACK THEN HOUYIEU WAS THE SAME AGE AS I AM NOW!
WE'LL MISS THIS PARK A LOT!

BUT WHEN THE SNOW FELL IN WINTER OR THE SAKURA BLOSSOMED IN SPRING, IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL SIGHT
YEAH, I WISH I COULD SEE THE SAKURA BLOSSOMS AGAIN
BUT LAST YEAR'S HANAMI FESTIVAL WILL BE MY LAST
AHANE, WHY DON'T WE GO FOR A QUICK RUN? YOU MUST BE FEELING THE COLD, RIGHT?
HUH?
HEY!
dash
IS HE FOR REAL?!
WAIT A SEC!
dash

SLOW DOWN!
WAIT FOR ME, YOU LITTLE...
POUNCE
SHIT! PRINCE OR NO PRINCE, YOU CAN'T GO RUNNING OFF LIKE THAT!

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO STAY BY MY SIDE!
IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DO AS I SAY, THEN I'M GOING BACK RIGHT NOW!
WHAT IF YOU WERE WITH A GUY WHO DIDN'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT GUARDING YOU? THEY'D NEVER BE ABLE TO CATCH UP!
ALL RIGHT
I'M SORRY
bow
gasp
huff wheeze huff
.....
Y-YES SIR
wheeze
gasp
gasp
wheeze
ROUVIEU,
WE SHOULD GO BACK NOW

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? WE'RE JUST HOLDING HANDS...
AND DON'T PULL ANY FUNNY BUSINESS EITHER!
HOLDING HANDS IS A PRIME EXAMPLE OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN THE WORK-PLACE!
SQUEEZE
I COULD BE OUT OF A JOB ONCE THIS ASSIGNMENT IS OVER
VROOM
TELL ME, AHANE...
...WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO JOIN THE POLICE FORCE?

THE POLICE HELPED ME OUT A LOT WHEN I WAS A TEENAGER. I GOT TO KNOW SOME OF THE OFFICERS AND—
.....
I JUST WANTED TO HEAR YOUR STORY.
I NEVER THOUGHT THAT
I DIDN'T HAVE A TROUBLED PAST OR ANYTHING!
.....
OH!
SO YOU WERE A DELINQUENT!
HE'S JUST SEVENTEEN.
BACK WHEN I WAS SEVENTEEN
HMM... I SEE!
AHANE-SAN!
...I'D DRIVE AROUND COUNCIL PARKING LOTS PRACTICING DONUTS, DRIFTS AND BURNOUTS
...without a license

I THINK THE CAR BEHIND IS TAILING US
BUT MAYBE IT'S PURSUING US RATHER THAN TAILING US
BECAUSE I'M NOW 20 KM/HR OVER THE SPEED LIMIT AND IT'S STILL CLOSING IN
BUT ISN'T THAT AGAINST THE LAW?
SPEED UP!
VANK
IT MUST BE TRAVELING AT LEAST 80 KM/HR.
HE'S GOING TO RAM US!

VROOM
ゴォ
オ
オ
オ
SCREECH
AARGH!
EEEK!

honk
honk
honk
HOW CAN WE RELAX WITH YOU BEHIND THE STEERING WHEEL?!
Phew!
Phew!
Phew!
Phew!
WE CAN RELAX NOW. THAT WAS A CLOSE CALL.

I'M CERTAIN ANYONE WITH A LAPUTAN PASSPORT IS SUBJECTED TO STRICT SECURITY CHECKS WHEN THEY ARRIVE IN JAPAN
NO, THAT GUY MUST HAVE BEEN HIRED BY SOMEONE
I DOUBT THE DRIVER WOULD BE FROM LAPUTA, BUT...
HI, ARIANE SPEAKING.
IS THE COMMANDER AVAILABLE?

THEY HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO TRACK DOWN THAT VEHICLE YET.
STARTING TOMORROW, YOU NEED TO HAVE A PROPER SECURITY DETAIL UNTIL THE DAY OF YOUR DEPARTURE.
I DON'T WANT A SECURITY DETAIL.
BESIDES— AN INCIDENT LIKE THAT DOESN'T NECESSARILY MEAN SOMEONE'S OUT TO KILL ME
YOUR HIGH-NESS...
...THINGS HAVE CHANGED NOW.
I THINK WE SHOULD SUSPEND OUR PLANS.
YUNA
DO YOU HONESTLY THINK THAT WAS JUST A COINCIDENCE?!
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!

HANG ON A SEC. WHAT PLANS ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THE SITUATION THERE IS VOLATILE
PERHAPS OUR INTELLIGENCE ISN'T SO RELIABLE.
BUT...
...WE'VE RECEIVED NO NEWS OF SUSPECT ACTIVITY BY THE MILITARY, RIGHT?
WHAT PLANS?
twitch
ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN THE SITUATION TO YOU.
MAKING YOU BODYGUARD TO HIS HIGHNESS WAS PART OF OUR PLANS.
MANY THOUGHT THE PRINCE DIDN'T HAVE A BODYGUARD, SO WE LET IT BE KNOWN THAT IT WAS QUITE LIKELY HE DID, AND THE FALSE RUMOR DEVELOPED A LIFE OF ITS OWN.
THAT'S WHY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS APPEALED TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT ON OUR BEHALF
IT WAS HIS HIGHNESS'S DEAREST WISH TO SPEND AS MUCH TIME WITH AHANE-SAN AS POSSIBLE DURING HIS FINAL DAYS IN JAPAN. SO WE ASKED FOR YOU PERSONALLY.

YOU ROTTEN LITTLE PRINCE!
YOU THINK YOU CAN USE THE JAPAN POLICE FORCE AS SOME KIND OF ESCORT AGENCY?!
BUT YOU WERE AN OFFICER ANYWAY, AHANE! I'D NEVER DREAM OF PUTTING A CIVILIAN IN SUCH A POSITION!
I SWEAR I FELL FOR YOU THE FIRST TIME I SAW YOU!
I WANTED TO SPEND TIME WITH YOU EVEN IF THAT TIME WAS SHORT! BUT I DIDN'T KNOW HOW ELSE TO SEE YOU AGAIN!
HOW ELSE COULD I GET TO KNOW YOU, ANYWAY?!
IS THAT SO WRONG?
I THOUGHT YOUR PRESENCE HERE WOULD HELP EASE THE PRINCE'S LOVELORN HEART
BUT MY FIRST AND FOREMOST PRIORITY NOW IS THE PRINCE'S WELFARE
I'LL ASK THE POLICE TO IMPLEMENT TIGHTER SECURITY MEASURES UNTIL OUR DEPARTURE

WITH OUR BUSY SCHEDULE, WE HAVE BARELY ENOUGH DAYS FOR THE SHOTS TO TAKE EFFECT
TOMORROW WE'RE SUPPOSED TO GET TRAVEL VACCINATIONS AT A MEDICAL CLINIC
FOR THE TIME BEING
...ALL OUTINGS ARE CANCELED UNTIL A PROPER SECURITY DETAIL HAS BEEN SET UP
I WILL
CALL THE DOCTOR. I'M SURE HE CAN COME HERE TO GIVE YOU THE SHOTS
AHANE?

I'M SO SORRY ABOUT THIS, AHANE
I HONESTLY NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE PLACING YOU IN SUCH DANGER...
BUT THAT'S PRETTY MUCH WHY I'VE BEEN ASSIGNED TO GUARD YOU
ARE YOU STILL AWAKE?
I HONESTLY CAN'T BELIEVE SOMEONE IS OUT TO GET ME
YOU SEE... UNTIL TONIGHT, THINGS HAVE BEEN PERFECTLY FINE THE WHOLE TIME YOU'VE BEEN HERE.
I'M SEVENTEEN ALREADY
...AND I'VE LIVED IN JAPAN FOR LONG ENOUGH
BUT JUST BECAUSE I'M COMING OUT OF EXILE DOESN'T MEAN THAT I'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO THE POLITICAL SITUATION...
BUT IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T WANT TO GO!
ASSUMING YOU DON'T WANT TO LEAVE, THAT IS.
THEN IT WON'T REALLY MATTER IF YOU DON'T GO BACK, RIGHT?

I ALWAYS KNEW I'D RETURN HOME SOME DAY...
...BUT I THOUGHT THAT DAY WAS A LONG WAY INTO THE FUTURE.
I KNOW IT'S SELFISH OF ME AHANE. BUT I'M SO HAPPY YOU'RE HERE.
UH... I MUST ADMIT...
I DON'T EXACTLY RECALL EVER SEEING YOU BEFORE...
IT WAS SPRING LAST YEAR!
WELL, I REMEMBER BEING PART OF THE SECURITY DETAIL AT THE GARDEN TEA PARTY...
EACH TIME I SAW YOU AHANE, YOU HAD A DIFFERENT LOOK ON YOUR FACE!
THE SECOND TIME I SAW YOU, YOU WERE SO DRUNK YOU COULD BARELY STAY UPRIGHT YOU HAD THE LADY AMBASSADOR IN STITCHES OF LAUGHTER
THE THIRD TIME I SAW YOU, YOU WERE BEING REPRIMANDED BY ANOTHER OFFICER
THE FIRST TIME I SAW YOU YOU WERE GLANCING AROUND IN A PANIC BECAUSE YOUR STOMACH WAS GROWLING SO LOUD
I FOUND YOU SO FUNNY AND CUTE EACH TIME!
BUT IT WAS LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT!
YOU ACTUALLY FELL FOR ME AFTER WITNESSING ALL THAT?!

AHANE, NOW THAT I'VE GOT TO KNOW YOU, YOU'RE JUST THE KIND OF PERSON I IMAGINED YOU TO BE!
.....
click
GOOD NIGHT
SORRY FOR KEEPING YOU UP
THE DOCTOR WILL BE HERE TONIGHT AROUND SEVEN P.M

WE'LL STAY INSIDE TODAY.
I HEARD THERE WAS HEAVY TRAFFIC ALONG HIBIYA STREET.
REALLY?
AHANE-SAN?
THE DOCTOR'S PROBABLY CAUGHT IN A TRAFFIC JAM ON HIS WAY FROM THE CLINIC
YEAH, WITH ALL THE CAR ACCIDENTS AND BREAK-DOWNS...

WELL HE CERTAINLY TOOK LONG ENOUGH TO GET HERE...
VROOM
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS DOCTOR LOOKS LIKE?
NO, WE'VE NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE
GOOD EVENING. SORRY FOR KEEPING YOU WAITING
kachik
カッチ
click

kachik
チャキッ
DON'T MAKE A SOUND.
swivel
DON'T MOVE.

CRASH
SHUT THE DOOR!
slam
THUD

AAH!
BANG
BANG
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
THAT'S FAR ENOUGH!
SMASH
flash
flash
EVERY-ONE FREEZE!

WAIT RIGHT THERE!
COM-MANDER!
DON'T LET THEM GET AWAY!
huff
huff
WHAM
AHANE!
LISTEN! IT SOUNDS LIKE OUR HERO IS BACK!
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
slam
SO NO ONE BROKE IN?!
THAT'S RIGHT! SEE FOR YOURSELF!
WE ALL STAYED IN HERE JUST LIKE YOU TOLD US TO, AHANE

huff
I. I WAS JUST DOING MY JOB..
huff
huff
huff
huff
AHANE.
THAT WAS SO BRAVE OF YOU.
YES. YOU WERE
stomp
AHANE-SAN?!
ugh!
THANK YOU.
woosh

EXPERIENCED GUARDS WILL ACCOMPANY YOU ON ALL YOUR OUTINGS.
TONIGHT A FULL SECURITY DETAIL WILL BE SET UP TO MONITOR THE PREMISES.
I SEE.
WE'RE GRATEFUL TO THE POLICE FOR GOING TO ALL THIS TROUBLE.
I'M NOT SURE.
I THINK I'LL BE A MEMBER OF THE SECURITY DETAIL, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHERE I'LL BE DEPLOYED.
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOU, AHANE-SAN?
YOUR HIGHNESS,
THERE'S NOTHING MORE I CAN DO FOR YOU.
AHANE...
.....

THAT'S UNTRUE
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO FILL MY REMAINING DAYS IN JAPAN WITH AS MANY MEMORABLE EVENTS AS POSSIBLE
BUT I REALLY WANTED TO REMEMBER SHARING THEM WITH SOMEONE I LOVE. IT WAS AN IDEA I COULDN'T GET OUT OF MY MIND.
SO WHEN I HAD THE CHANCE TO SELECT MY OWN BODYGUARD... I DIDN'T WANT ANYONE ELSE BUT YOU. I JUST REALLY LIKED THE LOOK OF YOU.
BUT TODAY WAS DIFFERENT
I THINK MY MEMORIES OF YOUR BRAVERY, AHANE, WILL GIVE ME STRENGTH AND COURAGE FROM NOW ON.
...AND THAT'S SOMETHING I'LL NEVER FORGET.
.....
I LOVE YOU, AHANE.

NO, YOU'RE THE BRAVE ONE.
SQUEEZE
AHANE

press
AT LAST MY WISH HAS COME...
AHANE...
IT'S MY TURN TO SPEAK!
Go ahead!
.....
CAN I STAY THE NIGHT HERE?
AHANE,
WE DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS IF IT'S TOO MUCH FOR YOU
YOU STUPID PRINCE!

THEN AGAIN YOU WOULDN'T BE GAZING AT ME LIKE THAT IF YOU WANTED TO STOP
LARONNE

FAREWELL
...MY VERY FIRST LOVE
THIS AFTERNOON, THE PRINCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LAPUTA, LARONNE KARMISSON
...IS LEAVING THE COUNTRY ON A SPECIALLY CHARTERED JET DEPARTING FROM NARITA AIRPORT

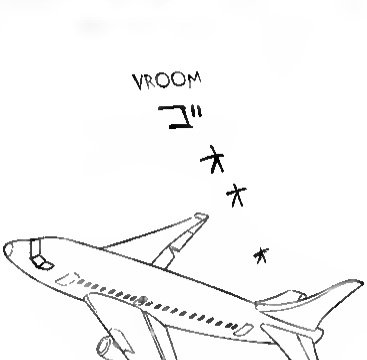
KARMISSON-SAN ARRIVED IN JAPAN AT THE AGE OF SEVEN AND HAS LIVED HERE IN EXILE FOR TEN YEARS
HE IS RETURING TO LAPUTA TO SHOW HIS SUPPORT FOR THE OPPOSITION CANDIDATE STANDING IN LAPUTA'S FIRST GENERAL ELECTION
THE CITIZENS OF LAPUTA STILL RETAIN A GREAT AFFECTION FOR THEIR FORMER ROYAL FAMILY
IN RESPONSE TO INTELLIGENCE REPORTS OF POSSIBLE ATTACKS BY FACTIONS OPPOSED TO THE PRINCE'S RETURN THE PRINCE HAS BEEN ESCORTED BY A HEAVY SECURITY CORDON

AHANE!
AT THE MOMENT THERE IS A FLURRY OF SNOW FALLING AT NARITA BUT IT IS UNLIKELY TO AFFECT THE PRINCE'S SCHEDULED DEPARTURE
THANKS FOR A JOB WELL DONE...
IT ENDED UP BEING A BIGGER ASSIGNMENT THAN ANY OF US THOUGHT
YOU WERE EXCELLENT THE OTHER DAY
pat
.....

vroom
YES, SIR
I KNOW
pat
pat
ゴォォォォ
vroom
I'VE GOT
AN IDEA.

I WANT TO BE A KING WHO'S ALSO AN ADVOCATE FOR THE PEOPLE.
THAT'S A BRILLIANT IDEA, SIR!
IT'S TOO DANGEROUS AND IMPRACTICAL NOW...
...BUT ONCE THE POLITICAL SITUATION IS STABLE AND THE COUNTRY IS SAFE, I'LL SUMMON AHANE TO THE ROYAL COURT TO BE A ROYAL GUARD!
AS USUAL!
YOUR PRIORITIES ARE BACK-TO-FRONT, YOUR HIGHNESS!
BUT THERE'S NO POINT IN BRINGING AHANE OVER ONLY FOR HIM TO BE INJURED IN SOME ATTACK...
...BECAUSE ONE DAY HE AND I ARE GOING TO LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER!
I KNOW I WON'T BE KING OVERNIGHT, SO I MUST STAND FIRM AND LOOK AHEAD TO THE FUTURE!
THAT'S THE SPIRIT, YOUR HIGHNESS!
ROUVIEL...
YES SIR?

LET'S MAKE OUR COUNTRY GREAT!


VROOM
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